



State Report



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Holiday Greetings From Fox

The Secretary of State's Office enjoyed another great year in 2000 thanks to the dedicated staff and hardworking divisions within the agency. Once again, we have provided valuable services to the citizens of our state.

This year's total of \$1,765,158.00 returned to the general fund from self-generated revenues and appropriated funds marks the fourth consecutive year the Department of State has saved our taxpayers hard earned money to be used again.

Our state museum program has served the people with new and exciting exhibits and educational opportunities. It includes the Caddo-Pine Island Oil Museum, the Cotton Museum, the E. D. White Historic Site, the Louisiana State Archives, the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, the Old Arsenal Museum, the Old State Capitol, and the Pentagon Barracks Museum.

Louisiana's Old State Capitol enjoyed another successful year, highlighted by the recently completed Mock Election in which over 500,000 Louisiana students

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Students from all 64 parishes gather on the Old State Capitol Grounds for Grand Finale Day of Mock Election 2000 which featured a parade, picnic and mock convention.

Mock Election 2000: A 'Phenomenal' Success

Students from throughout Louisiana joined Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen in the Grand Finale of the 2000 National Student/Parent Mock Election Nov. 2, 2000, at the Old State Capitol.

"The results of this ambitious project were phenomenal," McKeithen said. "More than half a million students voted in the election, and it is very important that we celebrated their new found sense of citizenship."

First, students voted in classrooms across the state. Then, a day-long Grand Finale at the historic Old State Capitol included a parade, a picnic, and finally, a Mock Convention where students "voice voted" their parish vote totals for the office of U.S.

President. A tally board was updated throughout the convention's activities. Bank One was the exclusive presidential

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McKeithen speaks to Mock Election Crowd.

Rare Film Footage Displayed at OSC

It's a lesson in history coming alive before your very eyes — rare glimpses of Kingfish antics, New Orleans school desegregation, the state's devastating 1927 flood and political intrigue— all playing now at the Old State Capitol.

The rare film footage was part of Telenews and Metrotone black-and-white shots for movie theater newsreels before television. Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen said it was originally donated to UCLA by the Hearst Corp., a multimedia conglomerate, and uncovered on the Internet by OSC staff members with help from the California school's Film and Television Archives.

"This is priceless," McKeithen noted. "The Huey Long stuff is the mother lode. It's

stuff nobody has ever seen in Louisiana," he added, citing numerous "out takes" of Long's presidential campaign announcement commercial before it was fine tuned for the silver screen in 1935. "It is like finding a Spanish galleon in the gulf of Mexico."

The material includes some 75 minutes of the Long "out takes," as well as statements from his political opponents saying they wanted to see him "dead politically." The times were so threatening, that Louisiana Gov. O.K. Allen declared martial law in Baton Rouge and called out state troops to protect Long.

Other raw footage includes shots of the devastating 1927 flood that ravaged south and central Louisiana. There is also both sound and silent film of New Orleans' school integration battle, the Legislature's attempt to stop it, and marches on the State Capitol by both segregationist and civil rights groups.

But the real political treasure trove is the unique Long footage: the entire version of his 1935 "Share the Wealth" speech to Washington's National Press Club; the LSU - Vanderbilt football game in 1934, with Long leading the Tiger Band into the stadium; and Sen. Long rehearsing his presidential announcement in New York City. There is even footage of Long's funeral after his untimely assassination.

The films are already available for students and researchers to view, according to McKeithen, and digitized segments will soon be ready for kiosk exhibits in the Old State Capitol. "This will certainly expand our multimedia exhibits and increase our research material," said Brad France, curator of the Old State Capitol's Center for Political and Governmental History.

"As far as I'm concerned, you can't put a price on it," McKeithen grinned.

So grab hold of your popcorn, and visit the Old State Capitol... for the greatest show in town.



State Archivist LeMieux Retires

After serving nearly 30 years as State Archivist, Dr. Donald J. LeMieux retired in the early part of this year.

He feels his greatest accomplishments were bringing about an increased awareness of preserving our heritage through genealogy, and construction of the highly acclaimed State Archives building. This facility was recently lauded as one of the most modern archival institutions in America.

"I miss the State Archives, but I have enjoyed spending more time with my family and developing my culinary skills at the family home on Toledo Bend Lake," said LeMieux. Although it was hard to adjust initially, he noted it was made easier by a list of 32 projects involving five buildings, two boat houses and remodeling his home in Baton Rouge. "I am now working more than ever, with longer hours, happy and well adjusted," he laughed.

He is also enjoying time with his grandchildren, preparing old fashioned family meals, enjoying quiet conversation and a simple life.

After forbidding family members to bring home any more pets, he broke his own rule, stating, "I now have five cats and five dogs which help support Dr. Boudreaux, the local Many veterinarian. He has had no time for fishing, but says, "I have enjoyed seeing my son and daughter develop and establish themselves in their professional lives."

Holiday Greetings From Fox

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participated. The State Archives has also continued its role as a valuable resource for research and information.

Our Corporations Division, with continued facsimile filings for corporations, partnerships, LLCs, trade marks, banks and co-op associations, as well as other updated services, continues to enhance customer convenience from the Commercial Division.

The Elections, Publications and Commissions divisions have throughout the year maintained the efficient, professional, and courteous performance for which they are noted.

These many accomplishments and achievements of the past 12 months would not have been possible without the steadfast and conscientious efforts of our faithful employees. So I would like to personally and sincerely thank them for their hard work, while wishing them and their families a happy holiday season. In addition, a special thanks goes to my executive staff for its continued dedication and loyalty to the department.

Finally, I would like to thank the fine citizens of our wonderful state for showing their trust and faith in my ability to lead this office. I look forward to the challenges of a new year as we continue to serve our citizens and build upon our past accomplishments.



Welcome Dr. Hardy

Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr. From St. Martin Parish is the new State Archivist. See related story in next issue.

Holiday Program Set at Archives

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen has announced that the Louisiana State Archives will continue celebrating the opening of "Holidays in Many Languages" through January 31, 2001.

This exhibition, which began Nov. 15, includes eleven display cases of cultural organization's artifacts representing their heritage during the holiday season. The display will include antique ornaments and items brought to this country when families first came to America. Developed by the State Archives, the exhibit shows the true diversity of Louisiana's population.

Representations of French, Spanish, German, Hungarian, Chinese, Italian, Irish, Czechoslovakia, Jewish, Kwanza and Canary Islands descendants, along with traditional American celebrations, are displayed in the exhibit cases. Then in December, most of these cultural organizations will decorate a tree for the lobby of the State Archives building.

The exhibit will be up until the end of January so that families can bring their children during the school holidays to see the exhibition and trees in the lobby.

Mock Election 2000:

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sponsor for the 2000 Mock Election, and the final day's activities were covered by CNN and shown nationwide. More than 2,000 students participated in the Grand Finale.

The morning parade started at the State Capitol and wound its way downtown to "state election headquarters" at the Old State Capitol. It featured patriotic floats, high school bands, dignitaries, special guests and students representing each of the 64 parishes.

Then a picnic, complete with a menu prepared by noted Chef John Folse, was served on the grounds. Later, the Old State Capitol's historic 1882 House Chamber was transformed into a political convention with balloons, banners and parish designation totem poles.

"We are proud of the students and proud of the teachers for helping us reach our goal to bring awareness of the importance of the democratic process," said project coordinator Donna Durand. "These festivities celebrated student participation in learning how to make an informed voting decision. With the nationwide media coverage, our Louisiana students reflected the positive outcome of this project."



Ribbon cutters at the Louisiana State Cotton Museum included, from left to right, Commissioner of Agriculture Bob Odom, Board President Reynold Minsky, First Assistant Secretary of State E. Wayne Watts, State Rep. Charles McDonald, former State Sen. Willie Crain, Normaj Broussard, Donna Winters and Past Board President Jack Hamilton.

Ribbon Cutting Held at Cotton Museum

Over 400 friends, supporters, dignitaries and board members were on hand recently for ribbon cutting ceremonies honoring a new Exhibition Hall at the Louisiana State Cotton Museum in Lake Providence, LA. It will depict the history of cotton in the Delta area.

Cotton Museum Board President Reynold Minsky welcomed guests and noted that the museum had begun in 1981 through initial efforts of the late Margaret Surles. The first fund-raiser garnered \$18,000 that was used to purchase the land and original farmhouse now serving as museum headquarters.

"The biggest impact on this museum has been its board and its friends organization," said E. Wayne Watts, first assistant Secretary of State. "They knew exactly what they wanted, and they worked hard to get funded." He added that support from area legislators was also critical in the funding process.

Praised at the event was the museum staff, curator Renee Schneider, and Donna

Winters, who has been a driving force overseeing exhibits for the new hall. Now that the exhibits are in place, a concerted effort is planned for promotion and development.

But this night was a celebration, complete with wine and cheese, entertainment, and dignitaries such as Commissioner of Agriculture Bob Odom and State Rep. Charles McDonald. Billed as a "Patrons' Preview," it was held to thank supporters and to provide a glimpse of things to come.

"We want this to be a hands-on museum," Winters explained, "an experience visitors can take home and remember."

Flood of 1927 Victims Sought

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen and the Louisiana State Archives staff seek persons with memories of the 1927 Flood, a flood that devastated much of Louisiana.

This information is needed for an upcoming symposium to be held in April, 2001 at the State Archives building in Baton Rouge. Featured at the symposium will be authors, engineers and historians who have studied and written about the tragic flood. Needed to complete the history are citizens who have actual memories, photographs, or artifacts of the actual flood or people whose relations were adversely affected by it.

If you have such information, contact Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr., state archivist at (225) 922-1200 or write to P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125.

This will be an opportunity to tell yours or your family's story and have it preserved for future generations.

What a Find!

Louisiana's Old State Capitol recently acquired copies of audio tapes from the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Dallas, TX. These tapes reveal conversations between President Lyndon Johnson and Louisiana Governor John McKeithen during the time of the Civil Rights movement in Louisiana. Also included are conversations with Louisiana Sen. Russell Long and Congressman Hale Boggs.

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Inside this Issue

- The Year 2000 has been a good one, as noted by Fox in his Holiday Greeting.
- Once again, the Old State Capitol's Mock Election was a huge success as over 500,000 students participated statewide.
- A ribbon ceremony at the Louisiana State Cotton Museum officially opens the new exhibit hall.
- Dr. Donald LeMieux retires as State Archivist.



Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen swears Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors Chairman Ronald R. Anderson into office. Also sworn into office during the ceremony were Roger H. Ogden, Charles V. Cusimano and C. Stewart Slack.

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